



**Figure 5-3. NOAA P-3 Weather Surveillance Aircraft**

be noted that more expeditious handling of reconnaissance aircraft will result by following the procedures outlined in the FAA/AFRC/NOAA Letter of Agreement (LOA) entitled, Meteorological Reconnaissance Flights, and the AFRC/NOAA LOA, as found in Appendix C.

[NOTE: These LOAs are currently being updated to include the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to reflect NASA's participation in multiagency research efforts to improve the tropical cyclone warning system.]

**5.3. Control of Aircraft.** Operational control of aircraft flying tropical and subtropical cyclone reconnaissance will remain with the operating agencies which own the aircraft.

**5.4. Reconnaissance Requirements.**

**5.4.1. Meteorological Parameters.** Data needs in priority order are as follows:

- Geographical position of the flight level vortex center (vortex fix) and relative position of the surface center, if known.